

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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*Media Office
Democratic Caucus
John Schorg, Director
Statehouse, Room 157
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
1-800-382-9842 or 1-317-232-9621
Fax Number: 1-317-232-9792*

BLACK CAUCUS URGES TRUSTEES TO ABIDE BY HERBERT'S CONTRACT

Statement by State Rep. Greg Porter (D-Indianapolis), Chairman of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus and State Rep. Vernon G. Smith (D-Gary):

As the Indiana University Board of Trustees prepare for their meeting December 8-9 in Indianapolis, we ask them to abide by I.U. President Adam Herbert's contract and not seek an additional review of his performance.

Dr. Herbert had his annual review in June of this year. His job performance obviously was found to be satisfactory by the trustees. It is unnecessary to generate further discord by forcing another review that places the trustees in the difficult position of rendering a fair decision in an environment of hostility created by some vocal faculty members on the Bloomington campus. The review last June was made impartially and without influence by outside parties.

The recent vote by faculty on a resolution calling for the additional review included participation by only two-thirds of the 1,574 eligible faculty members who belong to the Bloomington Faculty Council. Faculty on the other Indiana University campuses around the state were not invited to participate nor encouraged to voice their opinions. Since there are nearly 5,000 full-time faculty system-wide, the recent vote on this unnecessary review cannot be considered representative of all Indiana University faculty.

To the I.U. trustees, we ask that you abide by President Herbert's contract as you have done for his predecessors. To the I.U. faculty, we ask that you give Dr. Herbert time to show the fruits of his intense labor that we legislators have witnessed on numerous occasions. To the general public, we ask that you recognize the accomplishments President Herbert has made on behalf of Indiana University and the important role he plays for young African-Americans as a model of what one can accomplish with a dedication to education and hard work to achieve one's personal goal.

President Herbert deserves the respect and gratitude of all who love I.U. and want the university to retain the worldwide esteem it has earned through its devotion to excellence in education, dedication to opportunity and commitment to diversity.

